children of God ; for we know that the whole creation groaneth arid travaileth in pain together until now." Inanimate nature and the lower animals do not serve the noble ends which, they would have served had mail walked upon the earth a pure and sinless being. The air of heaven, as we breathe it, has to pass through bodies which have heen polluted by sin. The food which the earth furnishes has been commonly employed to pamper the bodies of those who give no thanks to God, and to nourish strength winch has been expended in breaking his law and dishonouring his name. That sun which was to have liglited mankind on errands of love, has now to shed its beams upon the evil arid the unjust, as they prosecute their schemes of selfish aggrandizement And that lovely moon, and these chaste stars., have they not to look on still darker deeds of criminality which dare not face the light of clay ? May we not hope, that these great and beauteous works of God were preserved for a grander purpose than they have ever yet served ? that this air is yet to be breathed by, and the light of these heavenly bodies to .shine* upon, beings as pure as they themselves are ?

(3.) How universal, too, the restlessness, how deep the groaning and Iravailings of the human race ! This world is not now, and never has hern, what its inhabitants would wish it to be. Hence the constant endeavours to improve it, and which are successful at least in changing it. Whether taken individually or collectively, humankind do not feel themselves to be at ease. There is a deep uneasiness in every human bosom, arising from desires which have not been gratified, and craving appetites for good which has not yet been attained. This prominent feature of tho individual is also a characteristic of the race. What never-ending schemes for jhc improvement of mankind, all proceeding on the principle that mankind need to be improved

1 Science is advancing itfl discoveries, arid polities its reforms, and all to remove tho evils under which the world is labouring. Some of tin'KG projects, it is true,, are utterly impracticable—many of them leave tho world just as they found it; but still, the very cngernesB with which they are proposed and pursued shows that man in not satisfied with his present condition and the world in which he dwells. His exertions are too often like the struggles of the ll'v<>r-pali<<nt, issuing in no permanent improvement of his coniUrum, but the wnllun^s atul groanings prove that lie is